

Big Bend

Ranger Programs

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



October 16 – 29, 2016

Monday, October 17

9:30 AM Program – “The Desert: It Wants to Kill You” Big Bend can be a dangerous place to visit, but don’t let that scare you from exploring the park and having fun. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn about the dangers of the desert and what you can do to stay safe and keep the park wild. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

Tuesday, October 18

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Building the Big Bend” Geology doesn’t have to be a quagmire of cryptic terms. Join Ranger J. Fenstermacher to learn some basic concepts and the events that have shaped the Big Bend. If you’re curious about how the Chisos Basin formed or the history behind some of its conspicuous formations, be sure to go along. Meet at the Window View trailhead in the Chisos Basin. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1/3 mile walk. 1 hour.

Friday, October 21

9:30 AM Program – “The Desert: It Wants to Kill You” Big Bend can be a dangerous place to visit, but don’t let that scare you from exploring the park and having fun. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn about the dangers of the desert and what you can do to stay safe and keep the park wild. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

Saturday, October 22

8:00 PM Evening Program – “Some Endangered Evening” Is it dark where you live? Can you see as many stars as you once could? A dark night sky is an important factor in the lives of living creatures planet-wide, a way for humans to connect to days past, when artificial light was non-existent. Join Ranger B. Smith for an evening about evenings. A telescope will be set up to view a celestial object. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

Sunday, October 23

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Meeting Mulciber” Who is Mulciber and what does he have to do with the Chisos Mountains? Join Ranger B. Smith to meet Mulciber and discover his part in the geology of these desert peaks. Meet at the Lost Mine Trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1.5 miles. 1.5 hours.

Monday, October 24

1:30 PM Guided Walk – “Getting to Know the Agaves” Big Bend is home to a variety of species in the Agave family. Found throughout the park, they have played a major role in the lives of both humans and animals. Join Ranger J. Jurado for a closer look at some of these unique plants. Meet at the Panther Junction Visitor Center front porch. Easy walk on the Panther Path. 45 minutes.

Wednesday, October 26

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Islands in the Sky” It is hard to stand in the Chisos Basin and not have a heightened sense of one’s surroundings. The forested environment supports a variety of plants and animals not found elsewhere in the park. Join Ranger B. Frohbieter for a discussion of the “sky island” ecology of the Chisos Mountains. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Wheelchair accessible. 1/3 mile. 45 minutes.

Friday, October 28

9:30 AM Program – “Bear Country” Whether you are staying at the Lodge, camping, or hiking in the Chisos Mountains or foothills you are in *Bear Country*. Join Ranger M. Lavender to learn more about how to enjoy Bear Country safely and agreeably with the unique population of Mexican Black Bears that make Big Bend home. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. 45 minutes.

Saturday, October 29

8:00 PM Evening Program – “A Fundamental Purpose” One hundred years ago, far-thinking citizens and legislators fought for the creation of an agency whose mission is to conserve wild, beautiful, and historic places in the United States. Join Ranger B. Smith for an evening’s discourse on the National Park Service. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

Not able to attend a program? Consider these alternatives:

The 22-mile-long Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive offers access to eight different trails, several scenic vistas, many paved pullouts with exhibits that highlight park geology and cultural history, and culminates at the Castolon Historic District. Take a day and go explore!

Enjoy the breath-taking beauty of Big Bend National Park in cool air conditioned comfort with our 22-minute Park Orientation film. Available daily on request at the Panther Junction Visitor Center.

Explore beyond the park and learn more about Big Bend history. The Terlingua Ghost Town offers several restaurants and stores, as well as a self-guiding tour of the old quicksilver mining district and historic cemetery.